

Ivor M. Hughes

Barrister & Solicitor

**Patent & Trade Mark Agents
Canada, United States**

Barrister & Solicitor
Ivor M. Hughes

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Patent Agents

Neil H. Hughes, P.Eng.
Marcelo K. Sarkis, P.Eng.

Counsel

Alfred Schorr

Our Ref.: PT1817000

April 9, 2001

A circular stamp with a double-line border. The outer ring contains the text "U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" in a serif font. The inner circle contains "O I P E" at the top and "APR 10 2001" in the center. At the bottom of the inner circle, there is some smaller, illegible text.

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APR 12 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Via Courier

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE
Box RCE
Washington, DC 20231 U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed herewith the following:

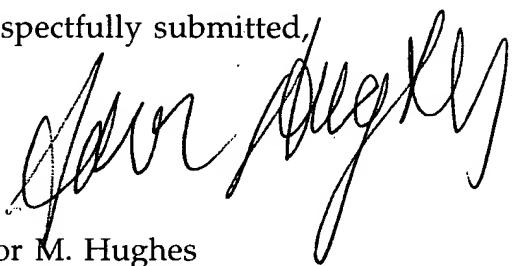
1. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal of United States Application Serial No. 09/465,338 under 37 C.F.R. §1.114;
2. Submissions, together with enclosures;
3. Request for a three month extension of time making this response due **April 11, 2001**;
4. Check in the sum of **\$1,600.00** U.S. funds (large entity) to cover the following fees:

Three month extension of time \$890.00 U.S. and base filing fee for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) \$710.00 U.S. If there should occur an overpayment or an underpayment of fees in respect of this submission, the Commissioner is authorized to access Deposit Account Number 08-3255 to make the appropriate adjustments and advise Applicant's agent;

5. Also enclosed herewith is a stamped, self-addressed verification card which we request that you kindly acknowledge and return to this office at the earliest opportunity.

We thank the Patent Office for its cooperation in this regard and look forward to receiving filing data in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Ivor M. Hughes
Agent for Applicant
Registration No. 27,759

IMH*kdk
Enclosures